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DD/ST#

3559-65

4 AUG 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : [] War Game

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1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with background information in preparation for your planned attendance at a 5 August briefing on the subject war game.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency participated in [], an inter-agency politico-military war game conducted by the Joint War Games Agency during the period 26-30 July 1965. The following six senior Agency officers representing the DD/I and the DD/P took part:

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[] DD/I/OCI

[] DD/I/OCI

George Carver, DD/I/ONE

[] DD/P/TE

[] DD/P/TE

Ralph Johnson, DD/P/TE

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The game began with the true situation in South Vietnam as of 26 July 1965 and moved through a scenario to 31 December with a deterioration of control in South Vietnam, but with no direct Chinese Communist involvement. The scenario included increased US bombing in North Vietnam. The game ended with the Vietnamese Communists willing to conduct peace talks, but hopeful that they would still achieve their objective of communizing South Vietnam.

3. The game was well planned, highly organized and ran smoothly. The players will conduct their final review and critique on Thursday, 5 August prior to the briefing which you will attend. However, it is the preliminary consensus of the CIA participants that in general the scenario was realistic and the game was played objectively. Benefits to the Agency were twofold. Participation enabled an exchange of substantive views on a common problem and the development of contacts with counterparts in other agencies. We expect further benefits through continuing exchange of viewpoints with these newly-developed contacts.

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Further study of the results is required to determine the degree to which the exercise will benefit contingency planning and our intelligence effort on the Vietnam problem. With regard to future participation in these exercises, each player must be prepared to devote approximately 1½ days of his work week to the game. In times of a concurrent true crisis in the area being gamed, this may impose an extreme demand on the time of some of the Agency participants.

4. The review to which you have been invited is intended to highlight for the senior policy and intelligence authorities the results of the game in terms of possible situations which the US may face with regard to Vietnam in the next few months. The review will be held at 1600 hours, 5 August, in Room 5 C 1042 in the Pentagon. Messrs. McGeorge Bundy, Llewellyn E. Thompson, Walt W. Rostow, and General Earle C. Wheeler have accepted invitations to the session and Mr. William Bundy may also be present. The review will include a 30-minute video tape showing the organization of the game and its substantive highlights and related major decisions. This will be followed by a discussion period. No advance preparation for this discussion is necessary and CIA game participants will be present to answer any questions you may have on Agency inputs to the exercise.

PAUL A. BOREL

Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

DDI/CGS/PEG/rv (8/4/65):

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